

The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare recognizes reserved bed days as an allowable cost when an MA resident is absent from a nursing facility for a continuous 24-hour period either for the purpose of hospitalization or for therapeutic leave.

Hospitalization

A resident receiving nursing facility services is eligible for a maximum of 15 consecutive reserved bed days per hospitalization. The Department will pay a nursing facility at a rate of one-third of the facility's current per diem rate on file with the Department for a hospital reserved bed day.

If a bed is reserved for a hospitalized resident, it must be available to the resident upon the resident's return to the nursing facility. The bed need not remain empty pending the resident's return; however, it must be recorded as a resident day on the nursing facility's daily census and on the invoice if it is temporarily occupied by another resident. A bed reserved for a hospitalized resident is not counted as a resident day if the bed remains empty.

Therapeutic Leave

A resident receiving nursing facility services is eligible for a maximum of 30 days per calendar year for therapeutic leave outside the nursing facility providing the leave is included in the individual's plan of care and is ordered by the attending physician.

The Department will pay a nursing facility its current per diem rate on file with the Department for therapeutic leave days.

Each bed reserved for therapeutic leave must remain unoccupied pending the resident's return to the nursing facility. The bed must be recorded as a resident day on the facility's daily census and on the invoice.